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Donald S. Prater  
Name of Person signing Certificate

*D. S. Prater*  
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of: CHEN et al.

Application No.: 09/630,121

Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: August 1, 2000

Examiner: Unassigned

For: THERMOPLASTIC PLANKS AND METHODS FOR MAKING THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 6, 2000

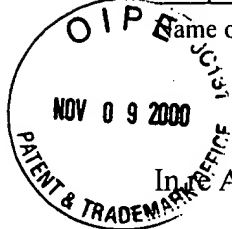
Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 are of record in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/460,928 and have not been included herein since, in accordance with M.P.E.P. § 609, it is not necessary to provide copies of those documents with this filing.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application but prior to issuance of a first official action on the merits.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim



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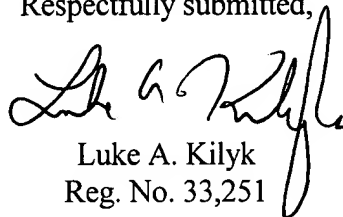
Information Disclosure Statement  
Application No. 09/630,121

in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to Deposit Account No. 50-0925 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Forms PTO-1449 (2 pages)

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